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E1
- a) determining the natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity of said patient to provide a baseline natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity;
  - b) administering an immunostimulatory dosage of an  $\alpha$ -interferon composition to said patient, wherein said immunostimulatory dosage increases the natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity of said patient at least 50% above said baseline; and
  - c) surgically resecting said malignant tumor.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said immunostimulatory dosage is about  $500 \text{ U/m}^2$  to about  $3,000,000 \text{ U/m}^2$  per day.

29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said immunostimulatory dosage is about  $500 \text{ U/m}^2$  to about  $1,000,000 \text{ U/m}^2$  per day.

D2  
30. (New) The method of claim 27, said method further comprising administering said immunostimulatory dosage for about five days prior to resecting said malignant tumor.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said dosage is administered once per day.

32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said NK lymphocyte cytotoxicity is measured at an effector to target cell ratio from about 15:1 to about 50:1.

33. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said immunostimulatory dosage increases NK lymphocyte cytotoxicity at least about 75% above said baseline.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said NK lymphocyte cytotoxicity is measured at an effector to target cell ratio from about 15:1 to about 50:1.

35. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said malignant tumor is selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, brain cancer, prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, renal cancer, and melanoma.

36. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said malignant tumor is an early-stage solid tumor.

37. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said malignant tumor is a melanoma.

D2 38. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said malignant tumor is a renal carcinoma.

39. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said immunostimulatory dosage is about 500 U/m<sup>2</sup> to about 3,000,000 U/m<sup>2</sup> per day.

40. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said immunostimulatory dosage is about 500 U/m<sup>2</sup> to about 1,000,000 U/m<sup>2</sup> per day. --

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